

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00586 030924Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 /041 W  
-----101338 030959Z /15 S

O 021522Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1699  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0586

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RESPONSE TO OWEN LETTER AND TALKING POINTS FOR  
USE WITH FRONT LINE AND NIGERIA

REF: STATE 53342 (NOTAL)

1. OUR UK COLLAAGUES AND WE AGREE THAT UNLESS THERE ARE  
OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS TO DOING SO, WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 6, TO MAKE INDICATED DEMARCHE.

2. OUR DESIRE FOR A FEW DAYS' DELAY IS PROMPTED BY A  
SERIES OF CONSIDERATIONS, THE FOREMOST BEING THE FEBRUARY  
27TH KILLING OF 15 BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL BY  
RHODESIAN FORCES. THEY WERE BURIED TODAY AT UNPRECEDENTED  
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MASS FUNERAL (SEE SEPTTEL). THIS CAME AS A TERRIBLE SHOCK  
TO ALL BATSWANA, AND PRESIDENT KHAMA AND ENTIRE GOB HAVE  
BEEN AND WILL BE MOST PREOCCUPIED BY THIS EVEN FOR AT  
LEAST SEVERAL DAYS. TO RAISE SUBJECT OF REFTTEL AT THIS  
TIME WOULD BE, WE FEEL, UNAPPRECIATED AND COUNTERPRO-  
DUCTIVE.

3. FURTHERMORE, MINEXTAFF MOGWE IS STILL OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND DEMARCHE WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT AWAITS HIS RETURN, WHICH SHOULD OCCUR THIS WEEKEND. THUS, WE STRONGLY ADVISE SOME DELAY TO ALLOW THE AIR TO CLEAR AND THE DEMARCHE TO HAVE MAXIMUM BENEFICIAL EFFECT.

4. UNDERSTAND UK HIGH COMMISSION HERE SENDING SIMILAR MESSAGE TO FCO.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.  
ALBERTI

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GABORO00586  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780097-0539  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 53342  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3144776  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIA: RESPONSE TO OWEN LETTER AND TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH FRONT LINE AND NIGERIA  
**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a6e53dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014